

Forest Management Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
May 3, 2006
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Michigan United Conservation Clubs Conference Room
2101 Wood St., Lansing

Attendees:

FMAC Members: Steven Arwood, Bill Bobier, Lynne Boyd, Bill Cook, Leland Crawford, Thomas Dunn, Susan Holben, Des Jones, William Manson, Frank Ruswick, Warren Suchovsky, Sam Washington, Anne Woiwode, Erin McDonough (MUCC Delegate), Steve Shine (MDA Delegate), Kerry Gray (staff support).

Joel Blohm, Peg Gale, Mark Janke, Dan Keathley, and Leanne Marten (Forest Service committee advisor) were absent.

Other Attendees: David Wright (Michigan Forest Association)

Welcome

Lynne Boyd welcomed FMAC members and guests.

Lynne informed the FMAC members that her Executive Assistant, Wanda Stevens passed away. FMAC members should send all correspondence to both her and Kerry Gray

Changes to agenda: Move up resume Commercial Forest and Public Access discussion to the top of the agenda to accommodate Sam Washington's schedule.

Additions to the agenda: Under New Business add Legislative Update

Meeting Summary

Warren Suchovsky moved to approve May 3 FMAC meeting summary. Thomas Dunn seconded.

Resume Commercial Forests and Public Access Discussion

Background: At the March 8 FMAC meeting, Sam Washington expressed MUCC's concerns about HB 5454, where owners of Commercial Forest lands would only have to prove that there is public access for hunting and fishing if the CF land was acquired after 1995. This is a fraction of the CF land enrolled in the program. He felt the FMAC should oppose this bill. At the March 8 meeting, Sam moved that the group agree to look at the problem of access in hope of finding consensus on the CF program as well as other types of properties. Other FMAC members were not clear on the wording of the proposed motion, so Sam agreed to more formally word it and the motion was tabled to a further meeting.

Sam stated that the legislation that was the genesis of his March 8 motion has been stalled in the Legislature. He continued to express the need of maintaining public access for hunting and fishing on CFA lands that were enrolled in the program prior to 1995. He believes that FMAC should take a stand on this and other issues that impact forest lands.

Committee members discussed the role of FMAC and what type of advice they should provide. They were reminded that the FMAC provides advice to the DNR Director and not the Governor or Legislature. There was discussion about the potential conflict of interest for some members, if the FMAC begins to provide comment on pending legislation.

Lynne provided her opinion on what FMAC can provide in terms of advice. If there is an important issue facing State Forest's, FMAC should provide advice to the Director. FMAC was not created under statute like the Forest Finance Authority. She believes that FMAC should provide recommendations but does not think that FMAC should comment on particular legislation. FMAC can also provide a resolution to the DNR.

FMAC members agreed to discuss important topics during the meetings and come to consensus on advice (if any) they would like to provide to the Director. Motions to approve advice would be held over to the next meeting so FMAC members had an opportunity to present advice to their representative group(s) and obtain their comments. Comments would be discussed/incorporated at next meeting and final Director advice developed.

Sam moved to postpone his March 8 motion indefinitely. Warren Suchovsky seconded.

Forest Ecology and Ecology Issues Impacting Michigan's Forests

Dr. John Witter from the University of Michigan presented. He highlighted specific issues impacting forest health in Michigan, including: exotic/invasive species, ozone, weather extremes, acid rain, and wildfires. A copy of the presentation will be on the FMAC web page.

Public Comment – none

Right to Forest- GAFMPs Working Groups

Chemicals Working Group

An agency meeting between, MDA, DNR and DEQ was held to discuss what should be done about the creation of the Right to Forest chemical GAFMPs. Lynne Boyd, Frank Ruswick and Gordon Wenk attended the meeting. The agency meeting provided two suggestions for creating the Right to Forest Chemical GAFMPs.

1. The Agriculture GAFMPs can be incorporated by reference in the Chemical GAFMPs. The entire 50 page Ag. GAFMPs document would not be included in the Forestry GAFMPs but rather the Forestry GAFMPs would state that you are following generally accepted forestry management practices when using chemicals if you are following MDA's Agriculture GAFMPs for chemical use.

2. A new document for forestry chemical GAFMPs can be created based upon the Ag. GAFMPs. Items from the Ag. GAFMPs that apply to forestry practices would be included and new GAFMPs would also be added.

Anne Woiwode said she will take these suggestions back to the Chemicals working group and they will develop a draft document. Steve Shine advised that the forestry GAFMPs should reference the Pesticide Control Act

Smoke/Dust/Noise Working Group

They have provided their final documents to be compiled into the Forestry GAFMPs from all of the working groups.

Lynne provided a copy of the Natural Resource Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994- Part 515 Prevention and Suppression of Forest Fires. This Act already provides nuisance protection for prescribed burning in section 324.51503b and the DNR enforces. The DNR, DEQ and EPA are currently writing a Michigan Smoke Management Plan that will deal with both prescribed burns and wildfires.

Removal of Vegetation Working Group

Working group provided a copy of their draft GAFMPs. Erin McDonough and Steve Arwood both requested that someone with a better understanding of silvicultural practices review it. Tom Stone, Service Forester with the DNR will review it.

Visual Quality Working Group

Working group provided a copy of their draft GAFMPs. They will be compiled with the other GAFMPs.

Assignment: All working groups must provide their final draft GAFMPs to Kerry (grayk@michigan.gov) by Wednesday, May 31. She will compile and format for the June 7 meeting.

Top Issues Facing Michigan's Forest Resource- Tabled to June 7 meeting

New Business

- Adding members to the FMAC
Lynne has received requests from several groups interested in serving on the FMAC, with John Fowler's resignation from the Committee in April there is one slot to fill. While the FMAC members can make recommendations the ultimate decision of additions to the Committee will be the DNR Directors. Lynne has heard criticisms that there is no wildlife group represented on the Committee. Lynne asked Committee if there were obvious gaps in the membership. Committee felt that more people with a strong forestry background would be helpful to the membership.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (Tom Ward) has asked to sit on the Committee as a Technical Advisor like Leanne Martin with USDA Forest Service. Committee recommended he be added to the Committee as a Technical Advisor with no voting rights. Des Jones nominated David Wright with the Michigan Forest Association, his background is in economics and transportation. Lynne will send his information to the DNR Director.

- **State Forest Plan**

FMAC members will still have an opportunity to comment on the State Forest Plan but the timeline for it's public comment review period has been postponed into the summer (July/August).

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 7 from 1pm to 4pm at the MUCC office (2101 Wood St, Lansing)

Suggested agenda items for June 7 meeting:

- Wrap-up on GAFMPs, Top Issues Facing Michigan's Forest Resource discussion (prioritization, additions to the list)
- Provide any other agenda items to Kerry Gray (517-241-1833 or grayk@michigan.gov)

Upcoming meeting: **Monday, July 17 from 9 am to 4 pm- DNR Gaylord Operating Service Center - Field Day**

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by Kerry Gray